

Plainfield correction reaps rewards of legislators donations

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"The men at PREF are looking forward to the professional attire and preparing for a successful future"

Commissioner, J. David Donahue

By Kristine Brite , The Flyer Group

It wasn't too long ago that Indiana Department of Corrections inmates were released in prison-issued khakis with \$75 in spending money in their pockets. Without support from family or friends, securing interview and work clothes was difficult.

Now, officials hope to tear down barriers for inmates finding jobs.

Correctional facilities have begun releasing prisoners with more clothing to make the transition back into the workforce easier. Even state legislators have jumped on board, with a recent drive benefiting the Plainfield Re-entry Correctional Facility.

State representatives Peggy Welch and Eric Turner spearheaded the drive for the nation's first re-entry facility.

"The men at PREF are looking forward to the professional attire and preparing for a successful future," IDOC Commissioner J. David Donahue said in a pres release. "It's all about promoting public safety."

Dalton Haney, an administrative assistant at PREF, said each inmate is now released with three articles of clothing, or more if someone has been incarcerated for some time and doesn't have outside support.

He also said the facility is always looking for donations from outside groups and individuals. Interview attire such as suits and ties is especially appreciated, however, other clothing that inmates can use to report to work is also needed. For example, an released inmate might secure a construction job and need jeans or work boots.

To make a donation, contact PREF Superintendent Mike Lloyd by calling 839-7752 or PREF Volunteer

Services Director Judy Helmsby calling 839-7752 ext. 4416.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.